



BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

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"I have not yet begun to fight!"



NAVY BUDGET REFLECTS HIGH-TECH SHIFT

By Tom Bowman, Sun National Staff

The charts and figures of the Clinton administration's \$277 billion defense budget for next year reveal that the Navy are for the first time shifting huge amounts of money to become high-tech forces for a new century.

The Navy is setting aside billions to finance a destroyer that employs stealth technology and requires two-thirds fewer Sailors than similar ships now in the fleet.

The Navy hopes to spend about \$4 billion of its \$92 billion budget to finance research and development of the new DD-21 destroyer, which will

have more precision guided weapons than current destroyers and a new electric drive propulsion system. By using more technology and automation, the ship will require a 95-member crew, down from the current 300 or more sailors on similar warships.

The service plans to use \$2 billion more on developing the DD-21 than it estimated last year. The additional research will delay the program a year, said Navy officials, with the first of 32 new destroyers expected in 2009.

EIGHT MORE FREED FROM HIJACKED JET

By Warren Hoge

Day and night negotiations with gunmen who seized an Afghan jet on a domestic flight and eventually ended up in this suburban London airport succeeded Monday in gaining the release of eight passengers and providing supplies for those still trapped on board.

The identity of the hijackers and the nature of their demands remained unclear, though reports from the Middle East said their purpose might be to liberate an Afghan fighter jailed by the Islamic fundamentalist

Taliban movement that now rules most of Afghanistan.

Fifteen hours into the negotiations here, the men had made no political demands, said John Broughton, assistant chief constable of police in Essex County, where the airport is located.

Three women, three men and two children left the plane by its back steps, bringing the total of freed passengers to 27. The plane had 186 people on board when it left the Afghan capital, Kabul, early Sunday for an internal one-hour trip to the northern city of Mazar-I-Sharif.

CAMPAIGN 2000

MCCAIN COURTS DEMOCRATS

By Keith Bradsher

Touching on themes more common in Democratic than Republican primaries, Sen. John McCain campaigned Monday in auto factory towns in Michigan, praised unions, called his rival's tax plan too generous to the rich and said he welcomed the support of independents and Democrats.

While McCain presented a friendly face to the non-Republicans who could play a crucial role in the Feb. 22 Michigan primary, in South Carolina he released a tough advertisement criticizing his main rival for the Republican nomination, Gov. George W. Bush of Texas.

At a town meeting in the Detroit suburb of Warren, McCain said the United Automobile Workers union and its members had helped improve the quality of American cars and the competitiveness of the industry. He also said he opposed so-called closed shops, in which all workers are required to join a union.

BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

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NASDAQ SURGES

By Kenneth W. Gilpin

The NASDAQ composite index cruised to a record Monday as demand for technology and biotechnology stocks remained strong. But the strength in technology masked another lackluster session for most stocks.

"Technology and biotechnology are good and everything else is blah," said William Meehan, chief market analyst at Cantor Fitzgerald. "The broader market is responding to interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve."

Led by Cisco Systems and Intel, the NASDAQ composite index closed at 4,321.77, up 77.63 points. It was the sixth consecutive advance for the index and the first time it has closed above 4,300.

Weakness in blue-chip companies like General Electric and Alcoa pulled down the Dow Jones industrial average.

The Dow dropped 58.01 points.

*** WEDNESDAY SITE TV SCHEDULE ***

CHANNEL 2

1030 DREW CAREY

1100 SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE

1630 NYPD BLUE

1730 JEOPARDY

1800 BEVERLY HILLS 90210

1805 WALKER, TEXAS RANGER

1900 DUDLEY, DO-RIGHT

2020 THEY WERE EXPENDABLE

2240 BLOODSPORT II

CHANNEL 6

1030 JUST SHOOT

1100 BATMAN RETURNS

1630 NEVER BEEN KISSED

1820 ESPN SUPERBOWL COVERAGE

1840 ENTER THE DRAGON

2020 STIR OF ECHOES

2210 TERMINATOR 2: JUDGEMENT DAY

IRAQ SUSPECTED OF SECRET GERM WAR EFFORT

By Barbara Crossette

With a new arms inspection system now being devised for Iraq, some arms control experts are looking anew at Iraqi biological weapons programs and finding evidence of at least one more secret project still to be uncovered.

In recent months, Milton Leitenberg, an expert on biological weapons, has been looking at this murkiest and most dangerous corner of Saddam Hussein's armory. He says a series of reports add up to indications that Iraq may be trying to develop a new viral agent, possibly in underground laboratories at a military complex near Baghdad where Iraqis first chased away inspectors six years ago.

Mr. Leitenberg, from the University of Maryland's Center for In-

ternational and Security Studies, has collected reports on Iraqi sites and activities from a variety of people, including two Iraqi defectors.

Mr. Leitenberg said in an interview that accumulating evidence of this previously unknown component of the Iraqi germ warfare program suggests that Hans Blix, the new chief inspector for Iraq, may want to give priority to biological weapons.

The elimination of biological weapons in Iraq may be as important to the Iraqi people as to the outside world, scientists say.

Iraq has not said it will admit inspection teams, though; it says it has already fully disarmed.

Biological programs, however, have been the most difficult to uncover. Richard Butler, the former executive chairman of the U.N. Special Commission, said that is because they are the most important to Mr. Hussein.

"Over nine years now," he said, "Iraq has consistently made extraordinarily strenuous efforts to hide the biological program well beyond those they made on missiles or chemicals. Why?"

U.N. inspectors from the former commission list a host of biological agents found in Iraq, including botulinum toxin, anthrax, camel pox and infectious hemorrhagic conjunctivitis virus. The commission was never able to account for all the stocks of biological agents - which Iraq denied having until 1995 - or for large amounts of growth material used to produce germ warfare agents.

THE VACCINATOR



HM3 Michael Malloy gives the Anthrax vaccine to YNCS(SW/AW) John Lewis. The vaccines were round two of three the crew will get this month. (Photo by PH3 Timothy Comerford).

NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL NEWS

RADAR SHOWS PIECE OF PLANE MAY HAVE FALLEN OFF IN AIR

By USA Today

Radar data shows a piece of Alaska Airlines Flight 261 may have broken off seconds before the plane plunged into the Pacific, investigators said Tuesday. Analysis of radar and the flight data recorders portray a terrifying final 12 minutes, during which the MD-83 jetliner went into a 7,000-foot dive, then regained some semblance of control, then rolled upside down and made the final plunge. All 88 passengers and crew aboard the flight from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, to San Francisco were killed.

FINAL HUMILIATION FOR GROZNY

By Giles Whittell

Russia dropped strong hints yesterday that far from rebuilding Grozny, it plans to leave the city as a warning to other separatists, moving the Chechen capital elsewhere.

Nikolai Koshman, the Deputy Prime Minister, said that he would govern for the time being from the region's second city, Gudermes.

"First we have to examine the extent of the damage. After that we will be able to talk about the future of the Chechen capital," he said. Gudermes, 20 miles east of Grozny, fell early in the war with hardly a shot fired, after elders persuaded rebel fighters to leave before the town was bombarded.

There is little doubt that Russia intends the destruction of Grozny, and the threat to withdraw its status as a capital, as a lesson to separatists in general.

ISREAL'S REQUEST FOR \$17 BILLION IN U. S. WEAPONS STIRS CONCERN

By Christopher Marquis

Pentagon officials are studying an Israeli request for \$17 billion worth of sophisticated American weapons.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak says Israel needs the highly restricted software codes, cruise missiles, advanced surveillance systems and smart bombs to safeguard its security if it returns the strategic Golan Heights to Syria exchange for any peace agreement.

Sources familiar with Israel's request say it is divided into three "baskets." The first seeks roughly \$10 billion for surveillance systems, such as spy satellite technology. The second requests \$3.5 billion for "deterrence," including Tomahawk cruise missiles. And the third basket asks for \$3.5 billion for trucks and Black Hawk helicopters.

It now falls to the Clinton administration to determine which transfers are essential, which might destabilize the region and which are too sensitive to share.

RUSSIAN TANKER TO UNLOAD ITS OIL

Bt Associated Press

A Russian tanker that was supposedly smuggling Iraqi oil in violation of U.N. sanctions was waiting Monday to unload its cargo in Oman despite strong objections from Moscow over its seizure by a U.S. Navy cruiser. The tanker, Volga-Neft-147, remained anchored less than a mile from Qabus port in Oman. Aleksandr Nazarov, a diplomat at the Russian Embassy in Muscat, said it would begin unloading on Tuesday.

SPORTS

WOODS' AMAZING RALLY LEADS TO 6TH TOUR VICTORY

By Clifton Brown

The streak is alive, and so is the magic of Tiger Woods. Woods Monday overcame a seven-stroke deficit with seven holes to play to win the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am by two strokes over Matt Gogel and Vijay Singh.

By winning his sixth consecutive start on the PGA Tour, Woods tied Ben Hogan for the second-longest streak in professional golf history.

Byron Nelson holds the longest winning streak with 11 consecutive victories in 1945, a record that has long been considered untouchable.

He shot a final-round 8-under-par 64, the best final round ever for a champion at Pebble Beach.

Woods won \$720,000 to push his career earnings above \$12.5 million.

HALEY RETIRES FROM NFL

By The Associated Press

Charles Haley, a menacing pass rusher and the only player in NFL history with five Super Bowl rings, retired Monday after a disappointing comeback with the San Francisco 49ers last season. Haley, 36, had 100 career sacks, including 10 or more in six of 14 seasons with the 49ers and Dallas Cowboys.

SANDERS FINISHED IN DALLAS

By The Associated Press

Deion Sanders says his days with the Dallas Cowboys are over. Sanders, an 11-year veteran, told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in Monday's edition he has no regrets about his five-year stay in Dallas. The team was expected to cut Sanders on June 2 because of his \$12.7 million price tag for 2000.

KNICKS FALL TO HORNETS

By New York Times

The Knicks stitched the remains of their team together and displayed the kind of character it took to challenge the Charlotte Hornets, but they could not find an answer for Eddie Jones and Derrick Coleman. It didn't matter who Jeff Van Gundy sent out to greet Jones and Coleman. Jones scored 34 points and Coleman added 29 as the Hornets left the Knicks behind, 95-85, Monday night at the Charlotte Coliseum. The Knicks came with just nine men dressed because of injuries to Marcus Camby, Larry Johnson and Chris Childs.

OTHER NBA SCORES:

Orlando 120 Golden State 100

Indiana 109 Philadelphia 84

Portland 115 Milwaukee 111

UCONN DROPS FROM TOP 10

By The Associated Press

For the first time since 1997, the Connecticut men's basketball team is not in the Top Ten of The Associated Press poll. The college basketball rankings released Monday had the same 25 teams as last week. Connecticut (16-5) fell from seventh to No. 13.

Cincinnati (22-1) was No. 1 for the fifth straight week. The Bearcats received 63 first-place votes and 1,739 points from the national media panel. Stanford, Duke, Syracuse and Ohio State held second through fifth. Michigan State, which beat Connecticut Saturday, and Arizona each moved up two places to sixth and seventh. Tennessee dropped two spots, and Auburn and Indiana, which each moved up one place, rounded out the Top Ten.

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